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THE

Extraordinary Caſe

OF

WILLIAM PENRICE,

Late Deputy Marſhal or Upper Turnkey of the KING'S BENCH PRISON, &c. &c.

[Price One Shilling.]

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THE Extraordinary CASE OF WILLIAM PENRICE,

Late Deputy Marſhall, or Upper Turnkey of the KING'S BENCH PRISON.

With a ſhort but preciſe NARRATIVE OF THE TRANACTIONS in *St. George's Fields*, On the Memorable 10th of MAY, 1768.

NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED,

BEING A

KEY to the *King's Bench Priſon*;

For Relief of thoſe, whoſe Misfortunes at preſent, or hereafter may ſubject them to Confinement therein.

ADDRESSED *to the* PUBLIC.

LONDON: Printed for the Author, and ſold at Mr. Bingley's, oppoſite Durham-yard, in the Strand; and all the Bookſellers in London and Weſtminſter.

M DCC XVIII.

BRITISH MUSEUM

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THE
Extraordinary CASE
OF
WILLIAM PENRICE, &c.

" *But if you touch the cauſe that hurts his brain,*
" *His teeth he'll knaſh, he'll foam, he'll ſhake his*
" *chain,*
" *His eye-balls roll, and he grows mad again.*"
DRYDEN.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

REMOTE as every intention of mine is, to enrage my oppreſſors, further than from what may ariſe by their own conſcious guilt, in mentioning their iniquities (notwithſtanding the juſt provocations they have given me), the love of juſtice alone, and the deſire of ſerving the public, by laying before them the unwarrantable tranſactions, and cruel oppreſſions, under

which the debtors in the King's Bench priſon, as well as myſelf, do now labour, and have for ſome time paſt ſeverely groaned, without any proſpect of relief, but what may reſult from a legiſlative enquiry are the motives of this publication.

As I doubt not but a due knowledge of theſe matters may be of great utility to thoſe, whoſe unforeſeen, or unexpected misfortunes may hereafter ſubject them to a ſtate of confinement, within theſe melancholy walls, as well as thoſe already in diſtreſs, I flatter myſelf it may ſave them much expence, and prevent the exaction of illegal fees, pretended to be demanded by uſurped authority, contrary to the letter of the law, which cannot fail, in many caſes, to be of ſervice to the creditor, and facilitate the deliverance of the priſoner by applying that money more properly, which is by him laviſhed away, through a miſtake, in obtaining favour and indulgence at an exorbitant price, from the perſon who aſſumes the power of diſtributing them, wherein humanity or compaſſion has not the leaſt part, but avarice and oppreſſion the greateſt. Hence the unhappy debtor is by the purchaſe, at laſt reduced to beggary, of which I ſhall give the moſt alarming inſtances, in hopes that a parliamentary en-

enquiry for redreſs may follow, as the only means to correct the abuſes, and relieve the diſtreſſed from ſuch unſupportable calamities. It is with this view I have committed theſe ſheets to the preſs, and with the hope and expectation that ſo intereſting a performance, ſmall and unadorned as it is, having nothing but matters of fact to ſupport and recommend it, may ſo far engage the attention of the virtuous and humane part of my countrymen, as to merit their approbation, with their favour and aſſiſtance in protecting me againſt thoſe who I have never offended, and whoſe unprovoked malice has ſought my ruin.

Before I enter into a detail of theſe important particulars, ſo material in general to be known, as well as intereſting to individuals, I think it a duty incumbent on me to give ſome account to the public of the means by which I became fully acquainted with them, and the oppreſſions I and many others ſuffer from the caprice, ignorance and cruelty of the very man who ought to purſue an oppoſite conduct, and who has now, without the leaſt pretence to learning, merit, or a proper knowledge of the duty, jumped into an office, without any better claim to it than the favour of ſome great man, and who exerciſes his deſpotic

ſpotic will over the defenceleſs and diſtreſſed without controul.

In my tender years I having an ambition to ſerve my king and country, and to obtain for myſelf, through a good conduct, ſome preferment, I quitted my indulgent and tender parents in Worceſterſhire; and going into the ſea ſervice, was in a ſhort time appointed an officer on board one of his majeſty's ſhips of war. After the unhappy affair between the admirals Leſtock and Mathews, wherein I had ſerved, having returned to my native country, I entered into trade, which I carried on in a fair way, with a reputation that might have done honour to my betters or ſuperiors: but at length, through an eaſineſs of temper and a deſire of obliging my friends and acquaintance, in giving them credit; unable to anſwer demands which came unexpectedly upon me, before I could get in my outſtanding debts; by theſe diſappointments I was, at a time when I leaſt thought of it, arreſted, and in conſequence thereof became a priſoner in the King's Bench priſon.

During the firſt ſix months of my confinement, I never ſo much as ſurmiſed to myſelf the thought of any poſt or employ in the priſon, or had I any friend or acquaintance

quaintance to recommend me to the then marſhal, for any ſuch office. I had by a demeanor, which I hope is natural to me, and which I have always ſtudied to obſerve, acquired the love and eſteem of moſt or all of thoſe who were then under the like circumſtance of confinement with me; in fine, I was ſo fortunate as to have a general good character amongſt them — to ſay no more. The then turnkey being for ſome misbehaviour diſmiſſed from that ſervice, enquiry was made for ſome perſon of probity, whoſe conduct could be relied on, for a charge of ſuch conſequence and importance, and who might be ſuppoſed, or found to be ſteady, and beyond temptation, corruption, or oppreſſion; who ſhould act with kindneſs and humanity to the priſoners, at the ſame time that he ſhould ſecure the then marſhal John Aſhton, Eſq; from the dangers of eſcapes, and other incidents attending this office; which were the true ſentiments and principles of that worthy marſhal, to the hour of his death; and which he was deſirous to commit to the care and directions of ſuch perſons as he could confide in, for ſuch a weighty purpoſe. Several deliberations being had for the choice of a proper perſon in this buſineſs, the eyes of Mr. Aſhton, and Mr. Marſon (deputy marſhal), after their own

private

private enquiry, were at laſt fixed on me; Mr. Marſon, whoſe good intentions in my favour were not leſs than thoſe of his ſuperior, came voluntarily to me, and told me that I was conſidered by them both, as a proper perſon to have the buſineſs of the head turnkey intruſted to my charge, which he repreſented as beneficial and advantageous; and I was from that juncture fixed in that employment, in preference to all or any of the other priſoners, and which I held for ſeveral months without giving ſecurity to Mr. Marſon, as is uſual in ſuch caſes.

My duty required the moſt vigilent attendance, and the cloſeſt application, as well as a peculiar care in managing the different humours and tempers of above 300 priſoners, then under my charge, which were often turbulent, dangerous, and troubleſome; but as I acquitted myſelf of the firſt, to the great ſatisfaction of the gentlemen beforenamed, ſo I had the good fortune to pacify and accommodate all diſputes among the latter, treating them with that lenity, kindneſs, and humanity, that was neceſſary, and looking upon them if not as my own, yet as the unhappy children of misfortune, committed to my care; and this I did to the general ſatisfaction and avowed acknowledgment of all; inſomuch, that for ſeveral years there was not

not the leaſt diſcontent among the priſoners with regard to their ſituation, ſo far as it related to the marſhal: the certificate ſigned by upwards of 300 priſoners, on the 26th of Auguſt laſt, the day of my diſmiſſion, by Mr. Benjamin Thomas, the preſent diſtinguiſhed marſhal, ſufficiently I flatter myſelf teſtifies the truth of what is above aſſerted, and their concern at my removal. This certificate was immediately drawn up, and ſigned by upwards of 300, as I have ſaid, and ſent me as ſoon as the news was related of my being removed from this office, which, though it afforded a competency whereby I might enjoy a tolerable maintenance, the great expence I was at deprived me of any poſſibility of ſaving any thing for future exigencies. The certificate ſo ſent me, which I never ſolicited, is in the words following:

The 26th Auguſt, 1768.

" Whereas William Penrice, late de-
" puty to the marſhal, or upper turnkey
" of his majeſty's priſon of the King's
" Bench, has this day been diſmiſſed
" from his ſaid office, without any appa-
" rent or ſatisfactory cauſe given to us;
" we whoſe names are hereunto ſub-
" ſcribed,

" ſcribed, do certify, that the ſaid Mr. " Penrice has acted in the ſaid office for " upwards of ſix years, during which " time he has demeaned himſelf with " great conduct to his ſuperiors, and maſ- " ters, (none of whom, to the beſt of our " knowledge and belief, having been " once charged through his neglect or " error with any eſcape or penalty) dur- " ing his long ſervice) and with great " affability, generoſity, and humanity to " the priſoners in general, keeping good " order, and preſerving peace and tran- " quility among the many hundreds con- " ſtantly under his care and inſpection, " through times of general diſturbances, " and commotion. And we do further " give it as our opinion, that the ſaid Mr. " Penrice is well worthy and capable of " officiating in a much higher and hap- " pier ſtation; for none could have been " a more difficult one than that which he " has ſo ſatisfactorily to all parties and " tempers acted; and from which he has " been diſmiſſed with the univerſal regret " of the whole."

N. B. The liſt of names is thought too long to incumber the reader with them in this place, but the original certificate, with the names ſubſcribed thereunto, is lodged in

in the hands of the publiſher Mr. Bingley, where the curious may view and peruſe it.

Services ſo eſſentially rendered by me in the courſe of my duty, as well to Mr. Aſhton and Mr. Marſon, as to the confined, induced the aforeſaid gentlemen to think of ſome ſcheme to promote my intereſt; which ended, for that time, in granting me the privilege of erecting a convenient building, joining to the lodge in the ſaid priſon, entirely for my own profit, uſe, and advantage; and which was of ſingular ſervice and convenience to the priſoners, in many reſpects; as I received this permiſſion as a mark of eſteem and kindneſs from my ſuperiors, I expended about 300l. on this building to make it compleat; never ſuſpecting I ſhould ſoon after, and without any juſt cauſe, be deprived of the benefit thereof, and be obliged to ſubmit to the loſs of what it coſt me, by the man, who no ſenſible perſon would have ſuſpected to have been ever appointed a ſucceſſor in office to Mr. Aſhton, who, living, was always diſtinguiſhed for his humanity and compaſſion to thoſe under his care.

Whilſt this building was carrying on, a priſoner made his eſcape over the wall, which rendered it neceſſary, in order to prevent ſuch attempts, for the future, to fix a *cheveaux de frize* on the walls round

the priſon: this I did at my own expence, and alſo was at the further charge of between forty and fifty pounds to have the delinquent retaken, and brought back to priſon; otherwiſe the marſhal would have been ſaddled with the debt and coſt, which was not a little conſiderable. Mr. Marſon, however, on this occaſion, made me a preſent of twenty guineas towards the expence I was at, in erecting the above building, and twelve pounds towards defraying the charge of the *cheveaux de frize*; which I looked upon, in ſome meaſure, as an inſtance of a future gratificaton intended me, by the generoſity of this gentleman, for my loſſes and the kindneſſes I had, from time to time, beſtowed on many of the priſoners, whoſe wants and diſtreſſes were moſt piercing and ſevere. Theſe loſſes and my diſburſments on the above account, would, I am perſuaded, have been conſidered and ſatisfied by Mr. Aſhton and Mr. Marſon; if the former had not been called away from this life, as he had, not long before his death, often told me and others, that he intended to make my place more advantageous to me, upon the ſcore of my great care and good behaviour.

Death having removed Mr. Aſhton, the general opinion, as well as my own, was, that Mr. Marſon would have ſucceeded him in

in his office of marſhal, as his long experience and knowledge in the buſineſs, gave him a juſt claim to that employment. Upon this event, which happened in March laſt, Mr. Marſon immediately waited on lord Mansfield, and having acquainted him with the death of Mr. Aſhton, obtained his lordſhip's promiſe, as he informed me, of ſucceeding Mr. Aſhton. Mr. Marſon, having in a day or two after waited again on lord Mansfield, received his lordſhip's ſecond promiſe of being that day appointed to the office, as he told me at his return, home. Under the aſſurance of theſe promiſes, and not doubting his lordſhip's performance of them, he ſaid to me, "Pen-
"rice, your conduct and behaviour has been
"ſuch, during the ſeveral years which you
"have been employed in this ſervice, that
"I now intend, not only to continue you,
"but to make your place more beneficial
"to you than what it has been: I, there-
"fore, deſire you will get a bond pre-
"pared, and bring it to me with your ſe-
"curities, to execute it ths afternoon."
I made my acknowledgments for his goodneſs, then went and got a bond prepared, but going to my friends to bring them to ſign the bond, I accidentally met one Taylor in my way, who came directly to ſpeak to me. This man, I was told ſome time

before, had been formerly a ſervant, afterwards a hackney writer, for a Marſhalſea court attorney, and for a long time in the petty-fogging way; his character, in general, was ſuch as would have made me avoid him; but ſuddenly accoſting me, prevented my deſign; he told me, "He "was going to look for me by direction "of Mr. Thomas, lord Mansfield's clerk, "to bring me to him; for that his lordſhip "had appointed this Thomas to the office "of marſhal, in the room of Mr. Aſhton, "but that I muſt keep it a very great ſe-"cret." I cannot expreſs my ſurpriſe at this unexpected news, or at the diſappointment which I believed Mr. Marſon would receive thereby, who, I knew, looked upon himſelf, from the promiſes made him, as good as already eſtabliſhed in the employment; and I conſidered what might be my own caſe in a ſhort time, if faith and promiſes were violated, or uſed as ſnares to deceive and betray, but doubting the veracity of the meſſenger, I abandoned the intention of my walk to my friends, and went directly with this man as he deſired, who conducted me to lord Mansfield's chambers, where I expected to learn a better truth.

No ſooner had I appeared in the chambers, than marſhal Thomas came to me, and

taking my hand into his, in the moſt friendly and cordial manner, after aſking the uſual queſtions how I did, &c. he told me, "That he was appointed, by his lordſhip, "marſhal, and ſucceſſor to Mr. Aſhton;" (though I was a little confounded, I was then confirmed as to the fact; by this declaration) "you muſt keep," continued he, "this matter as a great ſecret for a few "days; but as your conduct and good "behaviour has been experienced, and "approved, for ſo many years, I will "continue you in your office; which I "ſhall render more beneficial to you than "it has hitherto been, and make you happier than ever:" Deſiring me to return to my duty with my uſual care and diligence; but, above all, not to ſay a word of this matter to Mr. Marſon; adding, "that "I ſhould get a bond, and bring it with "my friends to his Taylor, (who I found "was now his counſellor, and director) "and there execute it as a ſecurity for the "diſcharge of my duty in the office." Accordingly, the ſame afternoon, or on the next day, my friends and I entered into a bond of two thouſand pounds penalty for that purpoſe; Thomas, in a few days after, came over to the priſon, and took poſſeſſion of his employment, leaving the management of the whole buſineſs to me, in which

which I proceeded, as I had formerly done.

In the evening of the 27th of April laſt, that ever memorable day to ſomeperſons, when the court had committed John Wilkes, Eſq; member for the county of Middleſex, and his lordſhip's marſhal and tipſtaffs were carrying him, purſuant to the ſentence, to the King's Bench priſon; the people, enraged at the ſeverity of the ſentence, ran away with this gentleman, his coach, horſes, marſhal and tipſtaffs, together, and carried them all to Spittlefields, where they took him from tbe marſhal and tipſtaffs, who were happy, through Mr. Wilke's conduct, to get away with their lives, the thouſands of Engliſh ſubjects aſſembled on this occaſion, who then had Mr. Wilkes no leſs in their hands than their hearts, being, by his preſence and good management, appeaſed: but whilſt they were enjoying themſelves in the contempt they had ſhewn his enemies, by the experiment they had given of what an incenſed and abuſed people might be provoked to do, he made uſe of the beſt opportunity he could; when, taking advantage of the night, he privately withdrew, and by the darkneſs thereof retired and made his eſcape to the King's Bench priſon; as I happened to be at the door, he immediately ſurrendered himſelf to me.

Having no other apartment at that time empty, and fit to receive a member of the houſe of commons, or a perſon of this gentleman's conſequence, but that which I had built near the lodge, as beforementioned, and which he ſtill occupies, I inſtantly conducted him to it; and having diſpatched a meſſenger directly to Thomas, to acquaint him of his ſurrender, marſhal Thomas came from Chancery-Lane with all expedition, and then waited on Mr. Wilkes, he did in a reſpectful manner return his thanks for his late deliverance; and, giving me alſo the greateſt applauſe, he could expreſs for my care and attention in conducting and ſetting Mr. Wilkes ſo commodiouſly in this apartment, as well as for providing every thing that could be expected, or wiſhed for in the preſent confuſed ſituation; contributing as far as in me lay, to make his confinement eaſy to him, with all which, my new friend the marſhal, appeared highly pleaſed; and, on taking his leave, deſired the continuance of my care and good conduct towards him.

From this period, to the 7th of May following, the concourſe of people daily flocking to the priſon, and filling the roads leading thereto, and all St. George's Fields, was beyond imagination: nor can any one conceive the trouble, care, vigilance, and fatigue

fatigue I underwent in this hurry and diſtraction, as the priſon doors were in a manner kept open, like the doors of the Royal Exchange, at 'Change time, and the chambers, ſtreets, gardens, and paſſages of the priſon, as much crouded, for ſeveral days following: nevertheleſs, no priſoner eſcaped, nor did any diſturbance, or inconvenience ariſe, which prompts me to ask marſhal Thomas, to whom was this tranquility and good order owing.

On the 7th of May following, an infinite number of people aſſembled in the fields, and in the evening of that day, ſeveral bodies of them advanced towards the priſon, when finding that Mr. Wilkes either engaged with his friends and viſitors, or for his own prudential reaſons and occupations, did not chooſe to appear; a detached party ſoon after ſhewed themſelves, carrying on a kind of gibet, a *boot*, and a *pettycoat*, hanging on the gibet, hollowing and ſhooting, Wilkes and Liberty for ever, and damning lord Mansfield, which hollowing was joined by the clapping of hands, and acclamations of the other thouſands attending the droll poſſeſſion, in which the *boot* and *pettycoat* were, by the detached party, conducted through the roads, and St. George's Fields.

This outrageous conduct could not fail to exaſperate me, and the marſhal; and as I per-

perceived his morning and evening *ſong* was not the ſame, and that his adorable deity Bacchus had more influence at night, than victorious Mars in the morning; and that a bottle or two of the ammunition of the former was worth two or three pounds weight of that of the latter: my brave marſhal, provided and armed as he was, inſtantly ſet out, and I at his heels, to attack a number of boys who had pulled down ſome rails in the fields, in order to burn them with their *boot* and their *pettycoat*. Have you not ſeen *Don Quixote* and *Sancho Panco* marching and forming to attack a windmill.

" Or have you not ſeen from Severne's brink
" A flock of geeſe jump in together;
" Swim where the bird of Jove would ſink,
" But ſwimming never wet a feather."

SWIFT.

Our plan of operations firſt formed, we moved forwards by ſlow marches in hopes of ſurprizing the enemy, detecting them in the *fact*, or catching them with the goodson.—*Civil* and *military* was the patrole *word*; perceiving at length that we were diſcovered by the enemy's ſpies, we cauſed a reinforcement of tame ſoldiers, and poltroons of pariſh officers to come to our aſſiſtance, by this augmentation, and the forced

marches, we ſuddenly made towards the boys; we put them to the rout without the loſs of a ſingle man either in the action or in our retreat.

Returning from this victory, we were ſuddenly alarmed by ſome of the *Carringtonian out ſcouts*, conſtantly on the wing of diſcovery, that a formidable party of the enemy was advancing from that part of the north ſide the river, called Spittlefields, to the ſouthern provinces of St. George's fields, to ſuſtain our enemies in this quarter. The marſhal, with an unuſal preſence of mind, and like a man of his experince and fortitude in time of danger, inſtantly ſignified to me his ultimate orders, to diſpatch hir aid-de-camps immediately to obtain ſuccours from the Tower, by ordering ſeveral parties of foot to march from that garriſon to his aſſiſtance; alſo to ſend others to the Tilt-yard and Whitehall, to require the troops to march for the ſame purpoſe, ſaying, "He "would go for them himſelf, if they did "not join him," as he commanded and expected they ſhould do.

Troops marched purſuant to order, but being too tedious in muſtering or marching, when they arrived at night on the field of battle, the children and idle boys were gone home to bed, ſo that no military execution could be performed that night. And

the people being by this formidable appearance prevented that night from ſinging and hollowing their ſongs and cries of Wilkes and Liberty for ever in that quarter, they quitted the fields, roaring it away through all the other corners and quarters of this great metropolis, and its ſuburbs: after moſt of the people had retired of themſelves, the Engliſh troops arrived, as I have ſaid, under the command of a colonel. The colonel, officers, and ſoldiers, behaved in the moſt civil and polite manner; and I with the greateſt pleaſure received marſhal Thomas's orders to provide in the beſt manner I could for thoſe forces; in conſequence of which, I uſed my beſt endeavours to entertain them; and furniſhed them with what they required; but the marſhal ſoon diſcovered his fears on another ſubject, viz. of maintaining this body of auxiliaries; and wiſhing, from his ſoul, that his new gueſt had remained in their old quarters; as the expence for their eating and drinking was not leſs than four or five pounds a day; his repentance, however, was now too late. About ten. the enemy diſappeared, but our troops remained all night under arms, to prevent any ſurprize; nothing further remarkable happened, for all remained quiet. I muſt here take notice of a reinforcement of

mercenaries, which were added to augment our ſtrength and facilitate the ruin of the enemy, according to the plan of operations ſettled in our council of war; and thoſe were, in truth, the Carringtonians, Pandours, and Moldavians, whoſe vigilance and activity cannot be too much applauded.

Sunday the 8th. All the troops, the above mercenaries excepted, marched off the field, and were replaced by the like number: our *Pioneers*, as well as *Spioneers*, were cloſely employed moſt of the day in clearing away the ground, removing the Paliſades, and fixing others in their places, to ſecure our retreat, in caſe of coming to a general engagement. The marſhal took every precaution that his own wiſdom and prudence could ſuggeſt; he took the reſolution and went by himſelf as far as the borough, to reconnoitre the enemy in this hazardous enterprize; he was obſerved by the enemy, and followed by about 200 of them, as well lads as laſſes. At his return, they of themſelves diſperſed, and on coming into our fortifications, he ſaid to me the following words. "Penrice don't "you think I ſhould make a good gene-"ral, for I have drawn off the enemy "without fighting;" he had forgot that he was already a marſhall and made a better

better figure than marſhale *Broglio* when he run away without his breeches. I had, in my turn, a more dangerous attack made upon me by an inſolent fellow of the enemy's party, who was ſo audacious to advance to our palliſades, where I then ſtood, and threatened me and the marſhall too; aſking, "What was become of his military or laced coat, when he ſerved in lord chief juſtice Lee's regiment of foot;" exclaiming at his ſudden promotion from a *valet de pieds*, as he expreſſed it, to the high rank of a marſhal without having made a campaign in Flanders. Though the fields, roads, and avenues, leading to our camp, were filled with an innumerable crowd of our ſpectatorial enemies, of all ages, ſexes, and conditions, we made a few priſoners this day, among whom was a gentleman with his child about five years old; but no hoſtilities were offered or attempted; towards night the enemy decamped in peace and quietneſs.

Monday 9th. our military marched, and other troops took poſſeſſion of the ground. On theſe troops advancing into the field with drums beating, muſick playing, and colours diſplayed; they were accompanied by a much greater number of perſons than I had ever ſeen before; the people, in their march, carried for their enſigns, the

the gibbet, boot, and pettycoat, and to the drums and muſick, inceſſant huzzas and ſhouts, replied, "*Wilkes and liberty for ever*," damn Boot and l—d M—d; which was continually repeated during the whole day, and all the evening, though the military inſtruments had ceaſed; this provoked me and my general, or marſhale, to the laſt degree; when the troops arrived we were pretty eaſy, their behaviour was like that of the others, full of kindneſs and humanity, for though their arms were loaded, and bayonets ſcrewed, no hoſtilities were offered; to fire at a boot and pettycoat was an object unworthy their courage and proweſs; and what the people did, for their amuſement or diverſion, could not excite them to acts of barbarity and inhumanity; as nine parts in ten, I believe, of the troops would have joined in theſe humourous mountebank performances, if they had been at liberty to follow their own inclinations; my cholerick marſhal, as well as myſelf, expected ſome skirmiſhing—Going by the wall, next the door of our fortifications, he obſerved ſeveral perſons who had the impudence to ſtand looking up at the windows, and ſhouting as above, ſeveral of theſe people he ſecured and brought in priſoners, and kept them in cloſe confinement; could Alexander do more?

more? would he do ſo much? the people cried out, are we in a country of liberty? are we in a chriſtian country? and the like, with the old cry as above, carrying their boot and pettycoat where they moved, and demanded the priſoners; the intrepid, but raſh, behaviour of the courageous marſhale, I feared, would have brought on us a general action, in which, I am perſuaded, we ſhould have been put entirely to the rout, by being overpowered with numbers, if the aſſault had been began, and a great deal of blood ſpilt on both ſides; to this imprudent ſtep, I apprehend, the ſubſequent fatal misfortunes were entirely owing.

He went; however, and brought ſome juſtices, who, I believe, were always ready and in waiting; the priſoners being detained, ſome boys began to throw ſtones, which fractured part of our fortifications, by demoliſhing a few ſquares of glaſs in the windows of my marſhale's houſe; but our works ſuffered no other damages, as they were ſufficiently lined with part of our forces, except ſome ſlight boards which I had caufed to be erected high way of a lobby, for the convenience of our watchmen, which was without-ſide the priſon door. I did at one time apprehend the danger was ſo great as to require

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assistance and every necessary precaution, but the evening closed in tranquility, the and people retired, carrying their trophies with them in triumph.

Tuesday 10th of May, 1768.

A day remarkable for the Annals of England.

The subject of this day should be, I think, more seriously treated, than any thing I have heretofore mentioned: since the idle diversions and amusements of an unarmed, and offenceless, giddy sett of people, in the midst of their fun, as they termed it, were unexpectedly changed into a tragic scene of blood, horror, and confusion—About 10 this morning, a body of troops arrived, to relieve those of the former day; most of this corps, if not all, as I was told, drew their breath on the other side of the Tweed; and were chosen for the fatal operations which followed in consequence of their arrival; these men of destruction took post in the room of a most humane, polite, well behaved party of the guards, who had then marched away to their respective quarters. The number of persons then assembled, shouting and huzzaing in their usual manner, was much the same as before, if not, without exaggerating, to say, that, in the course of this day, the numbers

numbers from London Bridge, through the Borough, to Weſtminſter Bridge, including thoſe of St. George's fields, were innumerable, of both ſexes and different conditions, among whom were numbers of figure and fortune; theſe troops being formed in a line along the priſon wall facing the rail or palliſade before mentioned, and which ſeparated them from the people; that ground was occupied by the ſoldiers; there had been a paper affixed to the priſon wall, containing ſome reflexions and ſatirical ſneers relating to the boot and petty coat, as alſo on l—d M——d. This paper was pulled down by ſome of the magiſtrates, which provoked and enraged the people next in view, many of them called out for, and demanded the paper, which not being returned them, they began to throw ſtones and ſods or graſs ſwabbs; ſeveral perſons were ſeized and confined by the marſhale and ſome of the magiſtrates orders; the people continuing their huzzas, and ſhouting Wilkes and liberty; then again demanding their paper, it was refuſed them; they were ordered to diſperſe, which they would not do, inſiſting they did no harm, and that they had neither ſticks nor weapons—A man, who ſtood at ſome diſtance, alarmed at a conſtable's coming towards him, run away, and was purſued by two

ſoldiers and their officer Mr. Murray to the road, from whence they continued their race acroſs two roads up a paſſage, and into a cow-houſe; they ſaw young Mr. Allen ſtanding there, who they apprehended to have been the perſon that run away; the young man perceiving they were going to fire at him, had juſt time enough to expoſtulate with them, aſſuring them he had done nothing, and the like, begging to be carried to juſtice if they had any thing to charge him with; they were deaf to the cries of youth and innocence, and inſtantly one of the blood thirſty ruffians ſhot him dead, by the balls paſſing through his body, and ſo through the cow-houſe to the oppoſite wall of the building facing the paſſage leading into the yard. Thus fell, innocent and defenceleſs, the unfortunate and only child of a helpleſs father and mother, from whom, and from whoſe poſterity, they had long flattered themſelves with comforts and bleſſings in the decline of old age, as they had all juſt reaſon to expect; for never was there any ſon who honoured and reſpected his parents with more filial obedience, or one better beloved and eſteemed by his friends and neighbours, who was then entering into the 21ſt year of his age, and in a way of enjoying a plentiful fortune, which his diſconſolate father had

had with reputation and induſtry acquired; and deſigned in a ſhort time to beſtow upon him, by ſettling him in the buſineſs, which he intended to reſign to him, on his coming to age. The riot act was about this time, or ſoon after read; and a ſtone, orbrick-bat, having been thrown, which hit Mr. Juſtice Gillam, and made him ſtagger, he ordered the ſoldiers, who were then drawn up in ranks to fire, which they did by advancing from the rank to ſome diſtance. Several perſons were killed by this diſcharge, and the fright and conſternation became general. The two ruffians returned to the priſon, after Mr. Allen was thus inhumanly murdered; they were no ſooner in the Lodge, and delivered into my cuſtody as priſoners, but they were ſurrounded by a number of the confined debtors, who, on asking them about Mr. Allen's death, one of them ſaid the piece had gone off, and killed him; on which one of their officers came in, and ordered they ſhould have what ever they wanted, directing them to walk about, to anſwer no queſtions, nor to hold diſcourſe with any body, which they carefully obeyed.

The news of this misfortune flew ſo rapidly, that ſeveral parties of horſe in leſs time than was expected arrived in the fields and roads about them: in endeavouring to

clear thoſe places, by the horſe paſſing and repaſſing in detached parties from one ſide to another; a horſe grenadier made ſeveral efforts and attempts to trample a poor old woman under foot by the manœuvres and movements of his horſe; the old woman finding herſelf in danger, and unable to avoid him, at length raiſed her ſtick againſt him, but weak and unable to ſupport it with her hand, ſhe added the other ſo effectually, that as often as the grenadier approached within her reach, ſhe beat him off, and with the ſtrokes ſhe gave the horſe, defended herſelf ſo courageouſly as to diſappoint his deſigns which afforded much pleaſure and ſhouting amongſt the ſpectators, and brought on, as I may ſay, another general engagement; for it was from this wicked folly of the horſe grenadier that the horſe began to fire, but no ſuch behaviour was found in the life guard troops while on this duty. I muſt here, and without the leaſt vanity ſay, that if Mr. Thomas had left the management of the whole of this buſineſs to me from the beginning, that none of the fatalities had happened, which had their original ſource in his impetuoſity, imprudence, and ignorance, by directing affairs. Or had my late ſuperior officers been in place, I am perſuaded they would have chearfully adviſed

with

with me for ſuch a deſireable end, and been the ſuppreſſors, inſtead of creators of ſuch unhappy troubles.

The hurry and confuſion in which I was involved, occaſionally on this day, did not prevent me from waiting on Mr. Wilkes, who had ſeen from his window the firing of the ſoldiers and horſe grenadiers; but not knowing the misfortune attending it, I took an opportunity to acquaint him therewith; when I perceived amazement dart from his eyes, and the whole countenance declaring his grief and aſtoniſhment: in a word, I believe, he would have ſhed his own blood to have ſpared what was barbarouſly ſpilt through the victims that were made, and whoſe only crime was the love of their country, and the ſupport of its laws and liberty. Such was his affection that he could not conceal it, and my buſineſs obliged me to leave him to indulge his melancholy reflections on the fatal cataſtrophies that had happencd.

The affair of the old woman I ſaw from the place where I accidently ſtood, when it happened, and alſo was preſent when the two ſoldiers, or rather grenadiers, who were committed to my charge, received the foregoing directions from their officer: as to all the other tranſactions and circumſtances touching this buſineſs, which I was not

not perſonally preſent at, I have carefully collected from thoſe who were, and from ſuch as their veracity may be relied on.

After theſe troubles were appeaſed, I continued in my duty with that ſeeming friendſhip which Thomas for ſometime pretended to ſhew me; I had a long time before prepared the apartment for Mr. Wilkes, as I expected he would have been arreſted every day, before, or after his ſetting up for member of the city of London, or during the time of his election, and appeared publickly in many places, and of courſe that he would be ſent to this priſon; I was no leſs ſurpriſed that ſuch a ſtep was not taken, than aſtoniſhed that he ſhould be committed when he was elected for the firſt county in England: the reaſon of this I could not reconcile to myſelf. I had, however, arranged the apartment in the beſt manner I could for the reception of a member of the greateſt aſſembly of the nation, and a gentleman of his diſtinction; from which I perceived, or I thought I perceived a coolneſs in Thomas's behaviour to me, notwithſtanding his endeavours to diſguiſe it. A venerable old gentleman, with his grey locks hanging on his ſhoulders, had come above an hundred miles from his country houſe to London, on purpoſe to pay him a viſit, and who had never

ver ſeen him before, as hundreds had done beſids: the old gentleman applied to me to beg of me to introduce him, having acquainted Mr. Wilkes with the requeſt, he readily conſented, and I conducted him up, and ſtaid during the interview; the old gentleman told him how far he had come to ſatisfy his curioſity, and to behold the man who providence had ſent to deliver his country from ruin, by ſupporting the laws and liberty thereof; and proceeding on this topic with a pathetic diſcourſe, and ſhedding tears, ſaid, "he could now "go home and die in peace, wiſhing his "majeſty had a thouſand ſuch ſubjects for "the preſervation of his crown and king-"dom." Mr. Wilkes, treating him with his uſual politeneſs, the old gentleman came away, then telling me he would have made him a preſent of ten guineas, if he had not been afraid to affront him. My civility to this perſon, as well as to others who came to wait on Mr. Wilkes in this way, did me no ſervice with Thomas.

I cannot omit another adventure, as ſingular: a woman well dreſſed, and great with child, came one evening, and having planted herſelf near the ſtairs, remaining about an hour or two, was aſked, who, or what ſhe wanted; "ſhe ſaid, it was to ſee "Mr. Wilkes, that ſhe had loſt her reſt,

"and

" and could never be happy, or at leaſt " eaſy till ſhe had ſeen him :" the woman would not leave the place, but continued theſe declarations to all about her; regarding her condition, and from a deſire to gratify her curioſity, I took an opportunity to ſlip up ſtairs unperccived by her, altered my dreſs, knowing Mr. Wilkes was engaged, and not to be ſpoke with, then ſignifying by my ſteps that I was coming down, the man I had employed for the purpoſe, told her, " now you will ſee Mr. " Wilkes ;" for he is coming down ſtairs ; as ſoon as ſhe perceived me, the poor woman fell on her knees with tears in her eyes, and giving me the bleſſings of God, as faſt as ſhe could expreſs herſelf; I lifted her up and comforted her in the beſt manner I could, ſhe ſaluted me with a kiſs, and turning to the man who ſtood by her, gave him a ſhilling, ſaying, " ſhe would " go home for ſhe was ſure ſhe would be " delivered with eaſe ;" and accordingly as I was informed, was brought to bed of a fine boy in a few days after. Theſe and ſome other exploits of the like nature, of which the number is too many to recite in the preſent conjuncture, poiſoned Thomas againſt me : but his evil intentions did not appear to diſplay themſelves in the clear light, till after the trial of Mr. Gillam, and

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the two ſoldiers at Guildford; and an enquiry made by ſome gentlemen about the number of ſquares of glaſs, that were broke in Thomas's houſe during the tumults beforementioned; ſomebody he had brought, and I believe ſworn to a charge of five pounds for theſe repairs; when I was examined, I made it appear that there were but ſeventeen ſquare demoliſhed, in all theſe diſturbances and tumults, which exaſperated and confirmed the animoſities he had before entertained in his mind for my ruin, and tempted him to put that unmerited ſcheme into execution, though he could not effect it for ſome months following.

I had a great charge to anſwer for, I had given a bond to Thomas of 2000 *l.* penalty, and of courſe was to ſee my friends diſcharged from this obligation which they had entered into on my account. I had beſides wines, and liquors of different, and in truth, of the beſt ſorts which I had provided, and always furniſhed to gentlemen whether priſoners or viſitors, for which, I was reſponſible to my creditors, and whoſe intereſt was as dear to me therein as my own, without mentioning linen, china, and other furniture of value, as all the priſoners can certify.

On the 26th of Auguſt 1768, I happened

pened to be much indiſpoſed, and tho' I had been obliged to have kept my bed for ſome few days before, I was up according to cuſtom, tho' ſcarcely able to keep up; towards nine in the morning of this day, Thomas's Taylor came in, and ſpoke to me, to prepare me, I believe, for what was to follow. I then upbraided him with having ſaid ſomething injurious of me to one of my acquaintance, who had a ſhort time before repeated the particulars to me; he then went to Thomas's houſe, which was but next door, and having, as I ſuppoſe, communicated to him what had paſt between us, Thomas entered, accompanied by four tipſtaffs his aſſiſtants; in coming into my apartment in the lodge, he cried out in a riotous and paſſionate manner Hey! Hey! what riot is here, what's the matter; there were ſome gentlemen ſitting reading the News papers, and others chatting together, who anſwered, "Sir, what do you mean, "there is no riot here, nor has there been "any; are you come here to make me: I "hope there is no occaſion for ſuch a thing;" with other expreſſions of this kind. He then deſired me in an angry ſurly tone, and with paſſion, to give him the key; I told him, I could not do it conſiſtent with juſtice, my own ſafety, and that of my ſeurities, requeſting him to tell me my faults, if

if I had been guilty of any; or whether he had any crime to charge me with, for that I would not give up the Key, till every thing was ſettled, and my ſecurity diſcharged; this I inſiſted on, with the more confidence in the juſtice of my reſolution, as I was by the nature of my place, and the rules and orders which had been ſerved upon me, at different times, eſtabliſhed therein as an officer of the King's Bench, ſubject to the will, as well protected as puniſhable by that honourable court, according to my good or bad conduct; and by act of parliament, not to be removed, or diſmiſſed from my office, unleſs by order of court; but my reaſons and expoſtulations were uſeleſs; he perſiſted he would have the Key, or he would, as he ſaid, take it by force, he then turned to my ſervand, and perceiving the Key in his hand, ſeized him, and wrenched it from him by violence, and gave it to a kinſman of his wife's, who had been brought in priſoner about a fortnight before, on a friendly action, and committed for the purpoſe of ſupplanting me, as I have ſince diſcovered; he then inſiſted I ſhould turn out directly. But apprehending he had bailiffs at the door to get me arreſted at the ſuit of one of my creditors, the deſign of which I had juſt learned; ſeveral of the gentlemen preſent inſiſted I ſhould

ſtay till Sunday following, and with difficulty rppeaſed him, and procured his compliance. Eârly on Sunday he ſent to know if I had left the priſon, I again repreſented the loſs it would be to me, and my creditors to leave my effects behind me, as I had not time to provide a proper place for their reception, I begged to continue; he would not liſten to my requeſt, but denied he had conſented to my ſtaying; and he perſiſted on my leaving the priſon, which I was obliged to ſubmit to, and in the utmoſt trouble and confuſion left the place with a large quantity of effects and liquors behind me, which he detained, and ſtill detains in his cuſtody, and refuſes to pay me for them, or to reſtore them to me.

To ſhew the illegality of this proceeding, and my diſmiſſion by Thomas to be contrary to law, I have ſet forth the following clauſe of the act of parliament with regard to the point in queſtion.

27th of George 2. Chap. xvii. Art. 8.

" Provided always, and it is hereby en-
" acted and declared by the authority afore-
" ſaid, That as well the marſhal of the
" Marſhalſea aforeſaid, as the inferior of-
" ficers, to be nominated and appointed in
" purſuance and by virtue of his majeſty's
" court

" court of King's Bench, in caſe of any " non-reſidence or other neglect of duty, " or any ſuch misbehaviour in the ſaid " officers reſpectively, as the ſaid court of " King's Bench ſhall think ſufficient cauſe " for ſuch removal, upon any complaint to " be made againſt ſuch marſhal, or any ſuch " inferior officer, by motion, or petition, " in a ſummary way."

And to ſhew that I have been an inferior officer of the court, and as ſuch intitled by law, to any fees of office as turnkey, I have added the clauſe of the act, that intitles me to ſuch fee, with a table of the whole fees, which may be of ſervice to thoſe who may hereafter be confined in this priſon.

George the Second, 1754.

" It is hereby further enacted and de- " clared by the authority aforeſaid, That " the marſhal of the Marſhalſea aforeſaid, " and all officers belonging to the ſaid of- " fice of marſhal, and the priſoners com- " mitted, and to be committed to the " priſon aforeſaid, ſhall from time to time, " and at all times hereafter, be regulated " and governed by ſuch rules and orders " as have been, or ſhall be for that pur- " poſe made and provided, in purſuance of

" the

" the directions of an act of parliament " made in the ſecond year of the reign of " his preſent majeſty; intituled, *An Act* " *for the relief of debtors, with reſpect to* " *the impriſonment of their perſons*; and " the marſhal, and the inferior officers " aforeſaid, ſhall accept and take ſuch fees " only as have been, or ſhall be appointed, " and ſettled in purſuance of the ſaid late " mentioned act, and no other, or greater " fee or reward whatever."

Here follows the table of fees alluded to in the above recited clauſe.

" A table of fees to be taken by the " marſhal of the King's Bench priſon, in " the county of Surry, for any priſoner or " priſoners commitment, or coming in " gaol, or chamber rent there, or diſ- " charge from thence in any civil action " ſettled, and eſtabliſhed to the 16th day " day of June, in the 23d year of the reign " of his majeſty king George the ſecond, " and in the year of our lord 1760, *pur-* " *ſuant to an act for the relief of debtors* " *with reſpect to the impriſonment of their* " *perſons.*"

Fine

	s.	d.
1. Fine to the marſhal for every priſoner on any civil action,	4	8
2. To the turnkey on the maſter's ſide, —— ——	1	6
3. To the marſhal on the diſcharge of every ſuch priſoner, ——	7	4
4. To the deputy marſhal upon the diſcharge of one or more actions, executions, or other charge, and no further fee though there be ever ſo many actions, ——	4	
5. To the clerk of the papers for the firſt action upon the diſcharge, —	3	
6. To the clerk of the papers for every action, execution, or other charge to be paid of the diſcharge. ——	4	
7. To the deputy marſhal upon a commitment of a priſoner in court, or at a judges chamber, in any civil action if carried to the King's Bench. —— ——	1	
8. To the clerk of the papers for the ſame, —— ——	1	
9. To the ſaid deputy marſhal for a ſurrender in diſcharge of bail, be there ever ſo many actions, ——	1	
10. To the clerk of the papers for each action upon a ſurrender, ——	0	6
11. To each of the four tipſtafs 2 s. 6 d. for each priſoners commitment by this court, and carried to the King's Bench priſon, in the whole —— ——	10	

12. To

	s.	d.
12. To the tipſtaff that carries any priſoner committed at a judges chamber to the ſaid priſon, ——	6	
13. To the marſhal for the uſe of chamber, bed, bedding, and ſheets for each priſoner, if provided by the gaoler at the priſoner's requeſt, for the firſt night on the common ſide, in the ſaid priſon, ——	0	6
14. For the like uſe every night the priſoner remains in cuſtody after the firſt, —— ——	0	1½
15. And if two lie in a bed, one penny each, —— ——	0	2
16. For the like uſe of every priſoner that goes on the maſter's ſide, the firſt night, —— ——	0	6
17. For the like uſe ever night after the firſt, —— ——	0	3
18. And if two lie in a bed, twopence each, —— ——	0	4
19. And if the priſoner finds his own bed and ſheets (which the marſhal is in no ſort to hinder him of) then he ſhall pay for chamber rent to the marſhal per week —— ——	1	

No other fee for the uſe of chamber, bed, bedding, and ſheets, or upon the commitment, or diſcharge of any priſoner on any civil action.

Thomas Howard.
Anthony Thomas Abdy.
William Hammond.

MANSFIELD.
T .ARKER.

A ſhort time after my diſmiſſion, as above, I was informed by a gentleman, that my cellar doors had been broke open, and my wines and other liquors carried out, and left in the open fields, with watchmen to guard them; thoſe wines and liquors were of the value of more than 100l. A meſſage being ſent to me of this cruelty, and my circumſtances rendering it dangerous for me to go abroad, as I had not ſettled with my creditors, and the greateſt part of my papers, books of accounts, and effects being in Thomas's cuſtody. The wines and liquors remained expoſed in the fields that day, and next night, at the mercy of the watchmen, and their acquaintance, who made their own uſe of them, till a gentleman the day following ſecured and took what was left, into the city, to preſerve them for my uſe. I muſt alſo obſerve, that I put a quantity of china, pictures, and other valuable effects into my adverſary's houſe for fear of any accident happening to them, which he ſtills keeps, and rerfues to reſtore to me, notwithſtanding the many applications I have made to him for that purpoſe, and though I have ſolicited him by my friends to come to a fair and juſt account with me, if he has any demands upon me, and to ſatisfy or ſecure to him, on leaving them to the deciſion of two

honeſt men, In caſe any thing is due, I cannot prevail on him to comply.

It is a pitty the legiſlature does not take it into their wiſe conſideration, to ſtipulate the ſums to be paid for the liberty of the rules, as there are many abuſes committed in this practice, and the debtor as well as the creditor impoveriſhed thereby; and which upon enquiry will be found enormous. ——— Before I left the priſon, I learned from many of thoſe who have been longer confined therein, that there are many bequeſts due to them which are ſunk in the pockets of others, or applied contrary to the charities intended, and directed: They implored me to ſerve them therein; which I ſhall endeavour to do, and ſet the matter in a clear light; but if the proper enquiry was made by authority, it would be more prevalent, in which I am aſſured it will appear, that there are large ſums due and owing from thoſe funds to the unhappy debtors, which would in this time of ſcarcity, and their diſtreſs, be of infine relief to them, and ſatisfy their juſt debts, or moſt of them —— I ſhall endeavour to get a diſcovery of all theſe particulars, in order to lay them before the public, and in the mean time give them the following account of the *high bar* money, and a liſt of the legacies claimed by the priſoners

priſoners, as they were delivered into my hands, being determined to make application to parliament on this ſubject, as well as for that which concerns myſelf, as ſoon as I can with any degree of convenience.

The high bar money, twelve-pence at leaſt, is put into the poor box upon every motion, which commonly came to about 15*l.* a term, more or leſs; and that money was conſtantly paid at the end of every term till of late. This formerly did belong and was paid towards the mainteinance of the poor priſoners in the common ſide of the King's Bench priſon; but of late years it has not been paid to them.

There are a greater number of legacies not yet diſcovered, than thoſe ſet forth in the following, which I expect to be ſoon able to come at for the uſes abovementioned.

The legacy of Mr. Henry Brown, late linen draper in the Borough of Southwark, of 50l *per ann.* as may appear by the donor's will in Doctors Commons.

The legacy of Mr. James Dodd of 30l. *per ann.* to be paid out of a farm at Hartly-row, near Hertford Bridge, in the county of Southampton; ſome years paſt in the occupation of Mr. Cile, who lived in the ſaid farm.

The legacy of Arthur Child, of the county of Hertford, Eſq; of 24l. *per ann.*

to

to be paid out of a farm of 220l *per ann.* lying in the parish of Stephenage in the said county. This legacy was left in the year 1669.

The legacy of Mr. Sam. West, citizen of London, of 16l. *per ann.* to be paid out of a ground rent arising from several houses in Coleman street, London.

The legacy of Mr. John Hill, of Charlton in the county of Kent, of 12l. *per ann.* to be paid out of an estate at Charlton aforesaid; some years past in the occupation of Sir William Longham. This legacy was left in the year 1654.

The legacy of the family of the Luthingtons of 11l. 13s. 4d. *per ann.* as may appear by the donors will in Doctor's Commons.

The legacy of Robert Henley, Esq; of of 10l. *per ann.* payable by the possessors of an estate lying near the church at Harrow on the Hill, in the county of Hertford, which estate is now or was late, in the family of the Walldoes.

The foregoing legacies amount to 153l. 13s. 4d. *per ann.* and have not been paid to the poor prisoners for many years past.

FINIS.